

SLIGHTLY IMPROVED

Physicians Make Statement Regarding Mrs. Dennis' Condition.

NO QUESTIONING PERMITTED TODAY

Detectives Actively Interested in the Investigation,

BUT HAVE NO CLUES

Mrs. Ada Gilbert Dennis, who was murdered last night, was not seriously injured by the blow which was struck on her forehead. The attending physicians were greatly surprised when they visited the hospital and noted the change for the better. Yesterday morning her condition was so serious that her death was expected before many hours. A saline solution was administered yesterday, as stated in The Star, and the patient was restored to consciousness, but it was feared the effect would not be lasting. The result, however, proves to be slightly encouraging.

Mrs. Dennis spent a fairly good night, suffering but little pain, and this morning her pulse was rather strong. Her temperature was nearly normal, and she had taken nourishment during the night. While there is apparently a change in the patient's condition for the better, the doctors hold out no hope of recovery. They have determined that the patient shall be kept perfectly quiet. Her mind is a little clearer than it was yesterday, and with absolute rest, it is hoped, further improvement may follow. Mrs. Dennis must volunteer a statement concerning the assault committed upon her if any made, but the doctors are not permitted to see her, although her sister was allowed to enter the room yesterday and remain only a minute.

But very few friends call at the hospital, as they know they cannot see the injured woman. They rely upon the telephone to get information, and one man is kept busy answering the calls.

Effort to Get Ante-Mortem Statement.

Mr. Alexander H. Semmes, assistant district attorney, made two trips to the hospital after 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon and spent more than two hours there, endeavoring to obtain an ante-mortem statement from Mrs. Dennis. When he reached the hospital, Mr. Semmes was told that she was in about as good condition as she would ever be. Accompanied by three detectives who were on duty he went to the room occupied by her and made an effort to gain from her something which would bear on the tragedy. At one time Mrs. Dennis was asked to crown his efforts, but soon afterwards the sick woman made contradictory statements. After remaining with her fully an hour he went away and returned at 10 o'clock, at the occasion of his second visit he found the patient apparently suffering considerable pain. Her answers, said Mr. Semmes, were not clear, and he was unable to get to the bottom of the matter. He was told that she had been expecting a visitor, but that she had not seen him. He was told that she had been expecting a visitor, but that she had not seen him. He was told that she had been expecting a visitor, but that she had not seen him.

Regarding the Weapon.

Major Sylvester and Captain Seaman are still of the opinion that the seat of the piano stool was the weapon used in the case. It is discovered that there is more blood on it than was at first supposed. The seat, it is argued, acted as a shield and prevented the spilling of the blood toward the person who wielded it. Yesterday it was found by the police officials that the seat weighs six and one-half pounds. Nothing has yet developed in connection with the overcoat found in the catch-basin at the corner of the street, which was found, three days after the murder, as a result of the search. Major Sylvester says he will call the police to the scene which will be of assistance in solving the mystery.

THE JUNIOR REPUBLIC.

To Replace the Building Burned Yesterday.

The burning of the building at the National Junior Republic yesterday, as reported in The Star, was not the result of sparks from the wash room, which were blown into an unoccupied room on the second floor. A feature of the disaster was the bravery shown by the boys in entering the burning building and rescuing much of the furniture on the first floor and some even of the things upstairs. When the flames first burst out one little boy was in an upper room confined to his bed by sickness. Mr. Turner, the superintendent, rushed through the smoke and flames and brought him out.

Mr. Thos. C. Noyes, president of the board of trustees, said today that the institution would not stop a minute on account of the loss of the building. "It is an extremely unfortunate time, of course," he said, "especially at this time of year, but it will be met, and the Junior Republic has been met, with a firm belief in the providence, and the generous disposition of citizens here and in Baltimore, and the Junior Republic will be able to meet the situation. The building which will be erected at once will be a better one than the one which was destroyed. The building which will be erected at once will be a better one than the one which was destroyed. The building which will be erected at once will be a better one than the one which was destroyed.

Archibald Hopkins, whose address is 1826 Massachusetts avenue, who is a member of the board of trustees, said today:

"In view of the disaster which has befallen the Junior Republic, I have decided to sell my building yesterday, containing my kitchen and dining rooms and girls' rooms, besides the rooms of the employees, I venture to appeal to every generous person to help me. Those who can only give trifles let them send something for the kitchen—a dish, plate, anything of the kind. Let every one who at this holiday season is expecting some petted child home send something, large or small. Let every one who has lost a child or a loved one in loving memory. Every one can afford to give something, and the sooner the better. Let us all unite in this effort to help the Junior Republic. Let us all unite in this effort to help the Junior Republic. Let us all unite in this effort to help the Junior Republic.

An Exhibition of Automobiles.

The State Department is informed by Consul Freeman at Copenhagen that an exhibition of automobiles will be held in that city in April next under the auspices of the Danish Automobile Club and the Society for the Promotion of Industrial Arts. The exhibition is designed mainly for automobiles, but some space will be given to motor cycles and articles relating to the driving of automobiles.

MR. WAKEMAN'S LETTER.

It is Said to Be a Refusal to Resign.

The Treasury Department has received a letter from Wilbur F. Wakeman, whose resignation as appraiser of the port of New York was recently requested. The contents of the letter have not been made public, as Secretary Gage is in New York and has not seen the letter.

It is stated that the letter contains a refusal to resign, and that Mr. Wakeman has done nothing to resign for. He defends his course and enters into a long detailed statement of his connection with the affairs of the office.

HEARING BEGUN.

Suit to Test Constitutionality of Personal Tax Law.

Hearing was begun late this afternoon before Justice Claiborne in Circuit Court No. 2 in connection with the proceedings instituted several weeks ago to test the validity and constitutionality of the so-called personal tax law in the District of Columbia. The title of the case is John S. Head, George E. Hamilton and D. W. Baker, et al., against the District of Columbia, for writ of certiorari.

The hearing is based directly on a motion to quash an assessment levied against the personal estate of Eugene Peters. The argument entails the reading from a large number of legal authorities. Attorneys A. S. Worthington, D. W. Baker, M. J. Colbert and C. L. Fralley appear for the petitioners, the District of Columbia being represented by Attorneys A. B. Duvall and E. H. Thomas.

NATIONAL FOREST RESERVE.

The President Sends a Strong Recommendation to Congress.

President Roosevelt today sent to Congress a letter strongly commending the plan for a national forest reserve in the southern Appalachian region. The letter accompanied the report of the committee on the subject. The President states that the facts as ascertained set forth an economic need of prime importance to the south, and hence to the nation as a whole, and they point to the necessity of protecting through wise use a mountain region whose influence flows far beyond its borders with the waters of the rivers to which it is tributary. Referring to the marvelous variety and richness of plant growth in this region the President says it is unsurpassed for purposes of a hardwood forest, and he earnestly commends the project to Congress.

DEPARTURE OF CUBANS.

They Will Return to the City After Congress Meets.

Mr. Abad, representing the economic society of Cuba, and Senor Gamba, president of the Cuban commercial delegation, who came to Washington to endeavor to secure trade concessions from the United States, left here this afternoon for New Orleans. They will sail tomorrow for Havana. They will return to this city early in January to continue their efforts to secure favorable legislation from Congress, and it is understood that they will be accompanied by many influential merchants of Cuba.

BRAKEMAN FALLS TO DEATH.

Slipped From Top of Freight Car and Is Crushed.

George W. Davis, twenty-six years old, a brakeman employed on the Baltimore and Potomac railroad, was run over in the Anacostia freight yard this morning by a train and instantly killed. His body was removed to the undertaking establishment of J. William Lee, and Acting Coroner Smith was notified. He made an investigation and gave a certificate of accidental death.

Davis slipped from a freight car. He fell across the track, and the wheels passed over his body. Life was extinct when the body was picked up. The train was moving at a fast pace, and the brakeman was not seen until the train had passed.

PENSIONS FOR CLERKS.

Provisions of a Bill Introduced by Representative Gillett.

Representative Gillett of Massachusetts introduced a bill in the House today by request for the retirement of government clerks on pensions, the funds for the pensions to be raised by an assessment of 2 per cent on the salaries of employees in the departments.

The bill provides that the new system shall go into effect on July 1, 1902, when 2 per cent of the earnings of every employee in the classified service shall be deducted and deposited in the treasury to constitute a civil service retirement fund. The bill also provides that this fund may be invested in government bonds.

The pensions are in no case to exceed 75 per cent of the earnings of the employee retired, and shall not exceed \$1,000 a year to any person who has reached the age of thirty years and has been employed for ten years under the civil service and have been visibly or mentally disabled for service, or persons who have reached the age of fifty years and who have been employed for thirty years and who have been employed for five years. The bill provides for the establishment of a retirement board with a chief at a salary of \$1,500 a year.

NO SALE OF PHILADELPHIA MINT.

None of the Bids Reached Usual Price.

PHILADELPHIA, December 19.—The old United States mint site on Chestnut street below Broad was offered for sale at auction this afternoon, but no genuine bids were received. Secretary of the Treasury Lyman J. Gage was present. He declined to say anything concerning the attempted sale.

When the site was offered by the auctioneer two voices in the crowd bid a million dollars. The bid was not accepted, as it was below the usual price of \$2,000,000 set by the government. No attention was paid to them. The auctioneer then announced no more bids. The site was then sold to the Secretary of the Treasury for \$2,000,000.

De Windt Starts Long Trip.

PARIS, December 19.—Hans de Windt and his companions, who will attempt to reach New York by traveling overland, started this morning, on their way to Berlin.

Strikes Legal in St. Louis.

In the St. Louis circuit court yesterday Judge Talty decided that strikes were lawful, and that any number of men may band together to enforce a demand for an increase of wages by leaving the service of their employers.

For a Universal Language.

A bill to promote an international conference to formulate a universal language was introduced in the House today by Representative Cushman of Washington. The bill authorizes the President to invite nations to take part in a conference in this city, October 1, 1902.

Demand for Erlaine.

From Modern Society. Erlaine, a young woman who has been missing for some time, was found yesterday. She was found in a rooming house in New York city. She was found in a rooming house in New York city. She was found in a rooming house in New York city.

Four Mills Closing Down.

A dispatch from Minneapolis, Minn., yesterday, says that four mills of the Consolidated Milling Company were shut down this morning. There is every probability that nearly all mills will be closed before the end of the week. The closing of the mills results, in part, from temporary demand in the demand for flour from abroad.

American Officers for Chinese Navy.

LONDON, December 19.—The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Express cables that Yuan Shi-kai, the new viceroy of China, intends to employ British and American officers to reorganize the Chinese navy.

TWO TRAINS COLLIDE

Serious Wreck on the Southern Pacific in California.

CONFLICTING REPORTS OF KILLED

One Account Says Two and Another Three Were Killed.

COACHES CATCH FIRE

SAN FRANCISCO, December 19.—The north and south-bound overland trains on the coast division of the Southern Pacific came in collision about 2 o'clock this morning near San Ardo, Monterey county, 130 miles south of this city.

News of the collision is very meager and conflicting. At first it was reported that at least ten people were killed and fifty injured.

A passenger on one of the trains telephoned the Associated Press from San Lucas that only three were killed—a fireman and a baggage man and his helper—and that four Italian laborers were injured, none of them fatally.

Later another passenger wired that three were killed and thirty injured, many of them fatally.

Following is the list of casualties: Killed—Mr. Garland, fireman; Wells Fargo messenger, John C. Fargan. Mrs. Wright, L. L. Oston, A. A. Irvine, Ida Sorsburg, John Kelsaw, Mrs. Pelipe, Mr. C. M. Emmet, George, John C. Williams, A. E. Wakefield, Mr. Holcomb, Charles Wasson, Mrs. Holbridge.

This message says two killed.

A message from Salinas to the Associated Press says the coroner has been notified that two were killed and that eighty people were injured, fourteen fatally. The railroad officials in San Francisco say their reports show three killed and none seriously injured. General Manager Kruttschnitt of the Southern Pacific was a passenger on the north-bound train.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

Bill Introduced by Senator Nelson of Local Interest.

Among the bills introduced in the Senate yesterday were two by Senator Nelson providing for industrial schools. The first of these authorizes the appropriation of money for the establishment of schools for the industrial education of the youth of the country in general, and of the population in each state of the union. The second provides a system of education for the territories including the recently acquired islands. For this system of schools \$1,000,000 is suggested for the District of Columbia and \$5,000,000 for Porto Rico and the Philippines and the territories. It is suggested that the schools shall be established so that all children shall become intelligent, skillful, efficient, and self-supporting citizens.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

Bill for \$100,000 Deficiency Passes the House.

A bill carrying \$100,000 as a deficiency appropriation for the general land office was passed by the House today, under unanimous consent, obtained by Chairman Cannon of the appropriations committee. Mr. Cannon explained that the bill was made necessary in order to carry on the work of transcripts and records of plats in that office, where a number of copyists are employed, and that the bill was necessary in order to carry on the work of transcripts and records of plats in that office, where a number of copyists are employed, and that the bill was necessary in order to carry on the work of transcripts and records of plats in that office, where a number of copyists are employed.

MEMORIAL TABLE DEDICATED.

To Massachusetts Soldiers Who Died in Andersonville Prison.

ANDERSONVILLE, Ga., December 19.—The Massachusetts memorial tablet, erected on the site of the old war prison here, was dedicated today.

Major E. S. Horton, president of the Massachusetts Association of Ex-prisoners, presided, and prayer was offered by Commander C. M. O'Connell of the Massachusetts National Guard. The monument was turned over to the Massachusetts National Guard by C. M. O'Connell, chairman of the committee, and it was accepted by Lieut. Gov. John L. Bates, who presided at the dedication.

Dates for Sailing of Transports.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 19.—The officials of the transport service have announced definite dates for the departure of transports for Manila. The Sheridan will depart on January 1, the Kilpatrick on January 1, the Thomas on February 1, carrying the 24th Infantry, and the Grant will depart about the same time on a special trip with insular employees and school teachers.

Supposed Suicide in London.

LONDON, December 19.—Hugh Kekewich of the firm of Morrison, Kekewich & Co., a leading member of the metal exchange, died suddenly this morning. It is said that he committed suicide. The belief prevails that Mr. Kekewich recently suffered heavy losses in copper. The metal exchange has closed its doors, and Mr. Kekewich is reported to be a feeble invalid. He had suffered from insomnia.

Another Cane for Refined Sugar.

NEW YORK, December 19.—Arbuckle Brothers have reduced the price of refined sugar five points.

For Supplied Taken in Wartime.

Representative Peattie introduced a bill in the House today, directing the Secretary of the Treasury to pay the property and supplies taken during the war of the rebellion.

Increase in Philippine Customs.

The division of customs affairs of the War Department gave out for publication today a statement showing that the customs revenues in the Philippines for the nine months ended September 30, 1901, were \$2,256,175, as compared with \$3,484,920 for the corresponding period of 1900, and \$3,483,128.08 for 1899.

Admiral Remey at Nagasaki.

The Navy Department has received a cablegram announcing the arrival of Rear Admiral Remey at Nagasaki, Japan.

Overdose of Laudanum.

Edith Lovell, twenty-two years of age, a member of a band of gypsies camped near Brookland, took an overdose of laudanum about 8 o'clock this morning. Police say the girl has been in ill health and took the dose with suicidal intent. A physician was called in and rendered medical aid. The girl will recover.

Indiana Town Burning.

HARTFORD CITY, Ind., December 19.—Fire threatens the entire business portion of Eaton, several miles south of here. This city has been called for assistance. The only fire protection there is a chemical engine.

BREWER'S MURDERERS

RECORD OF THE TRIAL OF FOUR FILIPINOS.

Three Sentences to Life Imprisonment With Hard Labor—The Other Acquitted.

The War Department has just received from the Philippine record of a court-martial of four Filipinos, which is of special interest to the public, as the natives were charged with the murder of First Lieut. Arthur H. Brewer, 27th Volunteer Infantry, a well-known and popular young resident of this city. Lieutenant Brewer was killed on the road from Calocan to Novales, near the city of Manila, in July, 1900. Every effort was then made to apprehend his assassins, but for many months no trace of them could be discovered.

The four natives held for trial were Agapio Yacno, a major of a so-called band of insurgents, and Benito Ciemor, lieutenant, and Manuel Lerma. The officers were exercising functions of command in a band of natives, a number of the members of the band dressed in the ordinary clothing of peaceful inhabitants of the country, and which lay in ambush on the road from Calocan to Novales. The natives were charged with the murder of First Lieut. Arthur H. Brewer, 27th Volunteer Infantry, a well-known and popular young resident of this city. Lieutenant Brewer was killed on the road from Calocan to Novales, near the city of Manila, in July, 1900. Every effort was then made to apprehend his assassins, but for many months no trace of them could be discovered.

When the two men approached the hiding place of the Filipino band, the natives opened fire on them. Lieutenant Brewer was killed. The two men were charged with the murder of First Lieut. Arthur H. Brewer, 27th Volunteer Infantry, a well-known and popular young resident of this city. Lieutenant Brewer was killed on the road from Calocan to Novales, near the city of Manila, in July, 1900. Every effort was then made to apprehend his assassins, but for many months no trace of them could be discovered.

He thereupon sent to the clerk's desk and had a letter sent by him to the first assistant postmaster general asking that official what his status was to be in regard to appointments in the rural free delivery service in his district.

Mr. Payne (N.Y.) made the point of order that the letter did not constitute a question of personal privilege.

Speaker Henderson held that a controversy between a member and an officer of the rural free delivery service was not a question of personal privilege, and he did not constitute a member of the committee on the rural free delivery service in his district.

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HOUSE MAKES CANAL BILL A SPECIAL ORDER.

NOMINATIONS CONFIRMED

After the vote on the Philippine revenue bill yesterday there was a general exodus of members of the House for their homes to spend the Christmas holidays, and today when the House met there was a waste of vacant seats. The session of the House was brief. Some odds and ends of business were disposed of.

Mr. Cannon (Ill.) asked unanimous consent for the consideration of a bill for a deficiency appropriation of \$100,000 for furnishing transcripts of records in the general land office. The employees who were doing this work, Mr. Cannon said, were mostly women, and he hoped to see the House in the spirit of the yuletide season to pass the bill. There was no objection and the bill was passed.

DEARMOND MAKES A STATEMENT.

The message of the President relative to the creation of an Appalachian forest reserve was laid before the House.

Mr. DeArmond (Mo.) at this point rose to make a statement in regard to the bill. He said that while he was absent in the Philippines a report was circulated in his district to the effect that the rural free delivery service was being discontinued. He said that he desired to make a statement to "present some testimony to disabuse the minds of those who may have been misled, and to confute those who may have been misled."

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The Speaker finally ruled that no question of personal privilege had been presented, whereupon Mr. DeArmond asked unanimous consent to make a personal statement. He proceeded to explain that the bill had been circulated in his district that he had caused on free delivery routes to be held up during the winter in the Philippines; that those reports were circulated by those who lied and knew they lied. He read letters addressed by him to the first assistant postmaster general in April, none of which he said, had elicited any answer. He said that he received by him after his return from the Philippines, dated July 3, saying a certain delivery route would be established, and another dated July 6, saying the action spoken of in the letter of July 3 had been "held up" to await the final action of the postmaster general.

CANAL BILL MADE A SPECIAL ORDER.

Mr. Heppburn asked unanimous consent that the Nicaragua canal bill be made a special order for Tuesday, January 7, to continue as a special order until disposed of, not, however, to interfere with revenue or appropriation bills.

Mr. Cannon asked whether the passage of the bill would embarrass the executive in securing the right of way through Nicaragua.

THE SENATE.

In the absence of Mr. Frye of Maine, president pro tem, Mr. Perkins of California presided over today's session of the Senate.

The bill temporarily to provide revenue for the Philippine Islands, which was passed by the House of Representatives yesterday, was referred to the committee on the Philippines.

INCREASE IN PHILIPPINE CUSTOMS.

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CONGRESS ADJOURNS

Short Sessions Held in Both Houses.

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MINISTER CORREA RETURNS.

Came From Mexico to Take Part in Canal Convention.

Mr. Correa, the Nicaraguan minister, who has been in attendance upon the congress of American republics in Mexico, has returned to Washington, and this morning called upon Secretary Hay at the State Department. The minister left the congress before its completion by express instruction of the government, in order to be in position to conduct to a conclusion as speedily as possible any negotiations necessary to the completion of the Nicaraguan canal project.

While a protocol has already been signed outlining the terms upon which a treaty may be drafted, conferring upon the United States the right of way and necessary powers for the construction of a canal through Nicaragua, the outline is of the vaguest character, and the Nicaraguan government has conferred largely desultorily upon its minister in the settlement of details, a mark of confidence rarely exhibited in connection with so large an undertaking.

It will not be possible for Secretary Hay and Minister Correa to sign a treaty such as described in the act of legislation by Congress. The executive protocol has no authority to make any proposition to Nicaragua, and he must wait until congressional legislation has been passed. Mr. Correa, the British ambassador, has already expressed his willingness to accept of its approval and ratification of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, and as soon as the bill is passed, the arrangement with Secretary Hay the day after tomorrow will change of ratifications of the treaty shall take place.

IN DIVORCE COURT.

Petitions Filed and Decrees Signed.

Justice Bradley, in Equity Court No. 2, has signed a decree granting Alice B. Hughes a divorce from Walter Erwin Hughes on the ground of desertion. The petitioner is given leave to resume her maiden name, Bennett.

A decree has also been signed by Justice Bradley granting William H. Despot a divorce from Birdie Despot on the grounds of desertion and infidelity.

THE DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS.

The divorce proceedings instituted by Martha Starkes against Thomas H. Starkes have been dismissed by Justice Bradley, the court holding that the testimony was insufficient to sustain the allegations of the plaintiff. The case was referred to an examiner in chancery for the taking of further proof.

SUIT FOR DIVORCE.

A petition for divorce has been filed by James T. Anderson against M. Anderson. The petition is given leave to resume her maiden name, Bennett.

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